THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Navodaya Vidyalayas

1697. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country till March, 1988 and the total number of students enrolled therein; and

(b) what is the total number of students coming rural areas in all these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) 209 Navodaya Vidyalayas are sanctioned/openend by March, 1988. The total number of students selected for admission in all these Navodaya Vidyalayas is 19,448. As per the information so far available the total number of students coming from rural areas in all these vidyalayas is 14,600 which works out to approximately 75 per cent of the total intake.

Quality of Text Books

1698. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the times of India on the 18th February, 1988 wherein it was stated that prominent academicians in a seminar in New Delhi, expressesd serious concern over lack of quality text-books in the country; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has been operating a scheme to subsidise University level text and reference books in English and regional languages to provide reasonably low-priced standard educational material for the student community. The scheme is being operated by the National Book Trust, India. It also aims at encouraging Indian authorship. The books to be selected under the scheme are scrutinised keeping in view the advice of panel of experts to ensure quality.

The UGC has been operating a scheme of "Preparation of University Level Text Books by Indian Authors" since 1970-71 under which financial assistance is provided to outstanding academics in the universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning and research in the country for preparation of high quality books, monographs and reference material for use in the universities and colleges. While the Commission gives financial assistance for preparation of manuscripts, the publication of the manuscript is the sole responsibility of the authors. The Commission does not give any assistance towards publication of such manuscripts. The operation of the scheme so far as receiving new proposals is concerned has been suspended since 18 July 1986 and the same is under review.

The UGC Subject Panels have also been requested to identify gap areas in which quality text books are not existing and the recommendations of the Panels will also be considered while reviewing the whole scheme.